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AMELIA, VIRGINIA

1865 1965

A Bright Future Built On An Illustrious Past

One Hundred Years ago, April 5, 1865 Amelia Court House lay astride the path in history, which brought the illustrious fighting Army of Northern Virginia, led by the indomitable Lee as it withdrew from the Siege of Petersburg and Richmond. Expecting to find supplies and rations shipped from Richmond upon his arrival here, General Lee was disappointed through tragic mixup in shipping orders. He found no rations.

Forced to forage for food for his hungry men and their animals, Amelia County, itself destitute, opened its larder, but to no avail. Little food and forage was available. Lee's army was forced to move on to Jetersville and Danville, to find its path blocked at Jetersville. Taking a course toward Rice and Farmville, the most tragic battle of Sayler's Creek, called "The Deathbed of the Confederacy," hastened the soon-to-be inevitable — the surrender of the Army at Appomattox.

Amelia County in the intervening years has been brought back to a state of prosperity, with cattle raising, forestry, dairying, production of small grains and tobacco. The future is brightened by the system of highways, the expansion of which is constantly underway, and by the closeness of the megalopolis developing on the Eastern Seaboard.

The Union Bank & Trust Company has served the area since 1916, and has played a large part in the development of the County. This strong bank stands ready to lead in the future as it has in the past.

On behalf of the citizens of Amelia, we welcome the guests and visitors for the Civil War Centennial Commemoration, and invite them to return to Amelia, possibly to make their home

Manuscript Editor, The Farmville Herald

By JOHN C. STECK

Southern women hold a unique position in the Confederate story. Their contributions to the Confederate cause are profound in many places and in many ways, manifested by a fanatic military force.

The crisis wrought by war came with an intensity that tested the fiber of Southern womanhood to the limit. After Appomattox there could be no return to the status quo ante bellum. Defeat, without loss of honor, made it impossible. Out of the ashes of defeat, with its political, economic and social calamity shown by the troops of the Confederacy, arose the spiritual exuberance of victory to conquer the peace.

Southern women have likewise exhibited future generations the record of what they did in the face of a people that would destroy them.

His be preserved. The guarantees later in the face of adversity was a spiritual courage, the fortitude of husbands, sons and brothers, the infinite pathos of widows and orphans, and the tradition homemakers.

Out of the welter of defeat and confusion the women of the South set about to reconstruct the past, to the task of the

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL — Monument, dedicated October 11, 1909, through donations and contributions from an admiring public.

Pleasant Plourmit and Mrs. Clara Cabell Venable. The present building on the same site was built in 1924. Surrounding it is the Green, no doubt filled with Confederate troops in 1865

OLD AMELIA COURT HOUSE — The bulk about 1840 being the third Court House building on the site. The present building on the same site was built in 1924. Surrounding it is the Green, no doubt filled with Confederate troops in 1865

Glenmore, then probably the home of Judge Daniel Call, who was later distinguished by the ladies of the household and the slaves after the Yankee Raid.

We have already mentioned the Jeter House, Amelia Springs, and some other houses in the county which are likewise still standing, which have some connection or relationship with the War Between the States.

One of these is Redmoor, just off the Genito Road (now Route 616), in the northern part of the county. It is known as such in that the great agriculturist, Edmund Ruffin, refugeed during the last days after the fall of Richmond to the home of prominent Secessionist, and it is claimed by some, that he, although quite an old man, fired the first shot at Fort Sumter in South Carolina thereby bringing on the War. It is said that he was arrested by his own hands is one of the rooms of Redmoor, writing, just before he committed suicide.

Jeter House, Amelia Springs, Scene of Yankee Raid

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"And now with my latest writing and utterance and what will be near my latest breath, I here repeat and proclaim the duty of perpetual hatred to Yankee Rule — to all political association with Yankees, and to all public affairs, Yankees, and the Yankee Race."

Another house is the Globe, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Lucy Ligon Mann. It is situated on the northeast of the Court House. The back of the present house is the front of the old Globe Tavern, which was built in 1815, at the age of 28 years, the latter being torn down in 1943 and the present house erected by Mrs. Mann's father, Mr. Ligon.

The Globe, and of its experiences extensive and varied, is full of interest and joy at fireside gatherings. Many of the subsequent adventures with stragglers, marauders and plunderers and of the hiding of valuables in the woods and fields to the northwest of the Courthouse to escape the Yankees, are told by Mrs. Mann, who maintained his Headquarters, to ask for protection. All of this was of particular interest to the writer, whose great-grandfather, not too long after the War, acquired said Webster Home, now owned by Mrs. Mann, and in which his mother was born. The Globe was in the early 1890's a sensational mercantile establishment.

Chiswell Farm

Another house of considerable interest is the home, at Chiswell, in the northeastern part of the county, now owned and occupied by Mrs. J. W. Perkinson. Chiswell Farm became, in 1864, old Chiswell Church stood nearby, and the Chiswell Farm house, in which property was owned by Dr. M. P. T. Evans, a native of South Carolina. He first married the sister of Frank R.

VALENTINE W. SOUTHALL

Lawyer, banker, Judge of Amelia-Powhatan County Courts, born in Farmville, graduate of Hampden-Sydney and University of Virginia Law School. An authority on history of the War Between The States, especially concerning Amelia County.

On The Banks of the Appomattox

Busy For 38 Years

Serving 45 Southside Communities

(Successor To Farmville Steam Laundry—

Established 1899)

FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

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LAUNDRY-CLEANING-STORAGE

R. B. Crawford — W. W. McClintic

Established 1927

tion had did not put up much resistance although a fight of some importance did take place in the churchyard. The church, which is still standing. Along this same route, about six miles out, is the present Scott's Park, where Lee's army camped for a few hundred yards west of Route 153, are the battlefields which are thought to have been erected by General Dick Anderson, himself.

Lee crossed at Goode's Bridge. The writer has been told by many that the Confederate soldiers cheered General Lee to the echo as he passed. He probably reached Amelia Courthouse about noon, and the people, who had not been notified of his coming, were surprised. Food for his men could not be received, immediately ordered the issuance of rations from the commissary stores that had been sent to Amelia from Richmond.

The Courthouse at that time was situated on the same site as now, but one hundred years ago the Courthouse faced the present east side of the street leading from the Courthouse Building to the Village, instead of the present north entrance in The Street of the Confederacy by Morris Schaff in the unwaved Franch L. Smith Memorial Park. Here there were ten houses in the Village at that time and the one of Benjamin Jeter, who was sick in bed at the time of the Yankee raid, and who died a few days after the affair in the Flanders house.

Jeter was one of three outstanding citizens of Amelia who were prominent before the War. Another was Dr. Peter Winston, who lived in the house now owned by Mrs. Samuel Harris on Mott Street, and who was a leader in the Secession movement. The third was Judge Daniel Call, who lived in the house now owned by Mrs. Lucy Ligon Mann, and which is known as the Globe Tavern.

Jeter was a lawyer before the Patrons of Husbandry movement, and was a member of the Virginia Legislature. He was a Whig in politics, and a strong Unionist before the War. He was a strong opponent of Secession, and was one of the last men in Amelia to be convinced that the War was inevitable. He was a friend of Abraham Lincoln, and had visited him in Washington. He was a friend of Alexander H. Stephens, and had visited him in Georgia. He was a friend of Governor Letcher, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Jefferson Davis, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Robert E. Lee, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge John Robertson, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge Thomas Ritchie, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge William Daniel, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge John Brockenbrough, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge John Robertson, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge Thomas Ritchie, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge William Daniel, and had visited him in Richmond. He was a friend of Judge John Brockenbrough, and had visited him in Richmond.

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